



Mr. Chris Brown
General Delivery
Fort Albany, Ontario
POL 1H0

MAY 12 1994

Dear Mr. Brown,

On behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, I would like to thank you for raising your concerns regarding the CBC and its reporting on the issue of Environmental Sensitivities. Ms. Joanne Kennedy, the Ministerial Liaison in my office, has informed me of the issue and your phone calls to her.

While I appreciate the concerns which prompted you to call, I must inform you that the CBC operates independently of government. As a Crown corporation, it is entirely responsible for its own day-to-day operations. Moreover, the Minister of Canadian Heritage has no legislative authority to become involved in the acquisition, production or scheduling of broadcast programs. To this end, it is not possible for the Minister of Canadian Heritage to intervene on a matter of programming to the extent of arranging a meeting with the Corporation's Board of Directors.

There is, however, another course of action which you might take regarding the CBC's news and current affairs programming. The CBC has established an Ombudsman - Office of Journalistic Policy and Practices. If a viewer or listener writes to programming officers with specific complaints about the CBC's news and current affairs programming, and is unsatisfied with the response provided, the Ombudsman may be requested to conduct an impartial investigation.

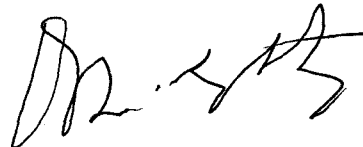
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Given your particular circumstances, I suggest you contact the Ombudsman to let him know of your dissatisfaction with the Corporation's programming. The Ombudsman may be reached by writing to:

CBC's Ombudsman
P.O. Box 500
Station A
Toronto, Ontario
M5W 1E6

I regret my response is not more encouraging, but thank you for calling and bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Gerolymatos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. André Gerolymatos
Senior Policy Advisor